

SOME
TRANSACTIONS

BETWEEN THE

I N D I A N S

AND

F R I E N D S

I N

P E N N S Y L V A N I A,

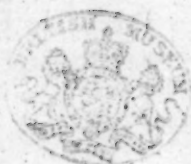
In 1791 & 1792.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED BY JAMES PHILLIPS, GEORGE YARD,

LOMBARD STREET,

MDCXCII.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following papers having been read in the last Yearly Meeting, and Friends having expressed a desire to have copies of them, the Meeting for Sufferings hath consented that they shall be printed. The first of them strikingly shews the powerful effect of kindness and of good example; and it is to be desired that the perusal of these pieces may excite us also in this country, to act up to our profession, and let our light so shine before men, as also to occasion in those amongst whom we dwell, glory to our heavenly Creator.

When any of the Indian nations go to Philadelphia on business with the government, it is thought proper by Friends there to continue an old custom of shewing a friendly regard to them, in order to inculcate a peaceable disposition, and to remind them of the cordiality, which, from the beginning, subsisted between their ancestors and Friends, and has continued uninterrupted for many years; on which occasions the Indians have always expressed much

pleasure and satisfaction. Two such occurrences took place in 1791.

A Seneca Chief, whose name signifies *Corn Planter*, with a few of his associates of the Six Nations, were at Philadelphia. At their departure, he left the following request, which was communicated to the Meeting for Sufferings there, which returned him the answer subjoined.

A deputation of six Indians from the southern nations, Cherokees, Creeks, Chickesaws, and Choctaws, were also at Philadelphia that year. During their stay, the occasional interviews and discourse they had with divers Friends, so impressed their minds, that the chief man desired that what had been said to them might be committed to writing, the better to enable him to report it to the people of his country. This request was also complied with.

THE
R E Q U E S T
OF THE
SENECA CHIEF,
CORN PLANT,
AND THE
ANSWER OF FRIENDS.

To the Children of the Friends of
ONAS*, who first settled in PENN-
SYLVANIA. The request of the
CORN PLANTER, a Chief of the
SENECA NATION.

BROTHERS,

The Seneca nation see, that the Great
Spirit intends that they shall not continue to

* The name given by the Indians to William Penn,
being the word in their language for a Feather or Pen.

live by hunting, and they look around on every side, and inquire who it is that shall teach them what is best for them to do. Your fathers have dealt fairly and honestly with our fathers, and they have charged us to remember it; and we think it right to tell you, that we wish our children to be taught the same principles by which your fathers were guided in their councils.

BROTHERS,

We have too little wisdom among us, we cannot teach our children what we perceive their situation requires them to know, and we therefore ask you to instruct some of them; we wish them to be instructed to read and to write, and such other things as you teach your own children; and especially to teach them to love peace.

BROTHERS,

We desire of you to take under your care two Seneca boys, and teach them as your own; and, in order that they may be satisfied

tified to remain with you, and be easy in their minds, that you will take with them the son of our Interpreter, and teach him also according to his desire.

BROTHERS,

You know that it is not in our power to pay you for the education of these three boys; and therefore you must, if you do this thing, look up to God for your reward.

BROTHERS,

You will consider of this request, and let us know what you determine to do. If your hearts are inclined towards us, and you will afford our nation this great advantage, I will send my son as one of the boys to receive your instruction, and at the time which you shall appoint.

his
CORN PLANTER ✕
mark.

Signed Feb. 10, 1791,
in presence of
JOS. NICHOLSON.
(Copy.)

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From

From the People called **QUAKERS**, the Children and Descendants of those peaceable People who first settled in **PENNSYLVANIA**, being the Friends of **ONAS**.

To **CORN PLANTER**, the **SENECA CHIEF** ; or, to **JOSEPH NICHOLSON**, the **INTERPRETER**, to be by him explained to the said **CHIEF**.

THE written message of **Corn Planter**, dated at **Philadelphia** on the 10th day of **February** last, was not received by us until some weeks after. His request, that we would take under our care two **Seneca** boys, one of them his own son, accompanied with the son of **Joseph Nicholson**, we have considered ; and do agree to receive them when they can be conveniently sent to us ; intending they shall be treated with care and kindness, and instructed in reading, writing, and husbandry, as the children

dren of our Friends are taught. The Governor of Pennsylvania, when informed of this propofal, having expreffed his approbation thereof, as did General Knox.

Signed on behalf, and by appointment of, a meeting of the representatives of the faid people, the 2d day of the 6th month, called June, 1791,

By feveral Friends.

S U B S T A N C E

OF THE

CONVERSATION OF FRIENDS,

AT SEVERAL INTERVIEWS

WITH THE DEPUTIES FROM THE INDIAN
SOUTHERN NATIONS,

*CHEROKEES, CREEKS, CHICKESAWS,
and CHOCTAWS,*

At PHILADELPHIA, 2d Month, 1792:

Copy interpreted to them; and delivered to their
Chief 19th 2d Month, several Friends being
present.

BROTHERS of the CHEROKEE NATION,
or RED PEOPLE,

WE who have spoken with you are glad
to see you here, and rejoice that you are
come as messengers of peace.

We wish you to know, that there are
many of our brethren, called Quakers,
settled

settled in most of the United States, who are lovers of peace, and do not meddle with war; and we are very sorry, that there hath been wars and bloodshed between you and the people of the United States; for we believe, that we are all children of the same great Creator, who intended that we should live in love and peace with each other; but when any of his children get drunk, cheat, steal, or hurt and kill one another, he is displeased with them; and when they will not regard his good Spirit placed in their hearts, then they go into all kinds of wickedness, which brings misery upon them, and they are not afraid even to destroy the lives which came from the hands of the great Creator.

But if we pray to him for the help of his good Spirit, and feel it in our hearts, and attend to it, we learn to pity those that the evil Spirit makes unhappy, and we can do good even to our enemies.

We

We therefore much desire, that our brothers of the Cherokee Nation, may be brought more and more to the knowledge of the great Creator, and that as his children, they may live in love and peace with each other, and with all men; and then we believe the Red People would not live so much by hunting, but employ themselves in tilling the ground, learning useful trades, and get proper schoolmasters to teach their children, that they might be brought up to love and obey the great and good Spirit who made them.

These things we wish our brothers of the Cherokee nation to think of, and above all to pray in their hearts to the great and good Spirit, for his help in all their honest undertakings, that they may be happy in this life, and after death in an everlasting eternity.

We desire these words from us, your brothers, may take deep hold in your minds, and warm your hearts, that so you
may

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may be strengthened to tell them to the people of your nation.

We also pray that the great and good Spirit may conduct you home in safety, and make you the messengers of good tidings from the government of the United States.

Farewell.

Signed by several Friends.

Philadelphia,
the 19th of the 2d month, 1792.
(Copy.)

THE

Philadelphia, Feb. 11, 1792.

THE President of the United States commands T. Lear to return the inclosed paper, which was submitted to the consideration of the President last evening, containing the sentiments proposed to be delivered in writing, by the Quakers, to the deputation from the Cherokee nation of Indians now in this city ; and to inform, that the President, upon a due consideration of the subject, does not see any impropriety in the inclosed speech being delivered to the Cherokees, as it contains the same friendly sentiments with which he has himself endeavoured to impress these people, and does not appear to be a matter that can be drawn into precedent on any future occasion. Neither has the President any objections to those Indians being furnished by the Quakers with such small presents as were mentioned to him last evening.

(Signed) TOBIAS LEAR,
Secretary to the President of
the United States.

JAMES PEMBERTON,
No. 74, Second-street,
(Copy.)

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